

# A TIME FOR GREATNESS

THE world faces a time for greatness. The phrase belongs to Mr Herbert Agar, the American writer, who has stirred both sides of the Atlantic to fresh thought about the future.

It is not often that a world gets deliberate chances to be great. It is not often that men see the issues so clearly as they do today. The chance to be great in the true sense of the word does not offer itself to every generation. A chance to be great, or magnanimous, was missed in 1919 owing to the fog and confusion in which men conducted their thinking about the future. We cannot afford to miss another chance.

## Influence of the Ordinary Man

This is a time for greatness because we are living in great days and we shall continue to live in them. They are days of high action and great decisions. The ordinary man's view of himself must match these moments. He is the great actor of the day. Upon him depend the issues of greatness. We can, if we will, slip back again into the arid days of small vision and mean decisions when the large view of man's solidarity was rejected, and each thought of himself and planned to achieve his own ends; but greatness demands that we take the other way—the way of the larger view and the big judgment.

WE now stand on the eve of vast changes in world affairs. Every man can help to see that those changes are made in a great manner so that a lasting benefit to all mankind results. A small view now of these changes will ruin their chances. We are contemplating not merely the end of a war but the beginning of a revolution. We see not simply the marching of the armies to victory but the opening up of those new roads of life and freedom which will make this world a fit place for men to live in. It is our greatness about the coming days of peace which matters supremely. That will be the testing time of the world. We may go back into old ways or we may go courageously forward to new ones. Our greatness will be tested by the greatness of our vision and decision.

## Future of the Coloured Races

This is a time for greatness about race. Those who are the victors in this great struggle will have laid on them the immense burden of being wise and understanding in dealing with the races of the world. The coloured races of the world will no more be content with being the servants of the white races. We must think of them not as servants but as brothers and friends. The day is gone when the races called "coloured" might be described as backward and inferior to the white man. In this present war they have stood side by side with the white man in the task of liberating the world. A time for greatness is now approaching in our relationships with them. In the countries of their birth, in Africa, India, and Malaya, they will want a new and permanent share in government.

THEY will ask for a new economic standing in their own lands, and for fresh opportunities to prove their worth. Already many of them are asking for this, and much more, not as a privilege but as a right of their birth and parentage. But the wisest also know that the partnership with the white races is the ideal they ought to set before themselves. In the creation of that partnership

the white races have a leading part to play. It is a time for greatness.

It is a time for greatness about prestige. If we are to have a peace of mutual understanding and forbearance—if that peace is to be real—we must think and act in a great manner about national prestige. There must be leaders and followers among the nations as among individual people. But the leadership we shall need in the new world is the leadership of a team in which all the members work together as equals. Prestige and pride are the deadly enemies of true greatness. They undermine confidence between nation and nation.

GREATNESS among nations can only be achieved together. The days of so-called greatness at the expense of other nations are gone. There are now no Great Powers depending on pride and prestige for their greatness. Greatness must be measured not in boasting and bravado but in the willingness to be great in service and friendship. Nations are now lining up according to new standards of greatness. The old standards are destroyed and not to be resurrected—they belong to the shadows of the past.

## Empires Are Not Possessions

This is a time for greatness about possessions. A nation's greatness was once measured by the extent of its empire, or the vastness of its wealth. That day, too, has gone. Empires are no longer possessions. They are responsibilities. We need to see colonies in a new light as places where men and women who have not had the full chances of development are awaiting their new day. They are places where people are reaching out in new ways to take a share in making the world a great place to live in. We need to be wise and understanding in our relationships with them. This especially is a word for the British people whose Empire is the biggest the world has ever known. We want it to be the greatest the world has ever known. The Empire no longer belongs to us. We all belong to the Empire. We share its possession with Africans and Indians and the Islanders of the Seas. We are together in a glorious company whose purpose is to discover new and peaceful ways of living together; to dedicate the acts of hand and eye to the cause of true living not for self but for all the commonwealth of men.

## Think Large and High

This then is a time for thinking in a great manner. Take the high roads of greatness in all your thinking as the days to victory roll on. That will be a contribution to the times of greatness. Read the great books. Be prepared for great changes and great achievements. The face of the known world is to undergo a vast transformation and the light of a new day is about to break. That light may be fine and clear, or it may be obscured by the smoke of dissension and dispute. Think large and high, and the days of greatness will begin to appear. These days are now being born as much in the minds and hearts of the people as in the minds and debates of the statesmen. The days of greatness are at hand, and at this historic moment we have a chance to prepare for them so that they may be well laid and a true foundation for the great superstructure which the nations of the world will build.

# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



## Keeping in Touch

Fleet Air Arm trainees learning to use the Aldis Morse lamp for sending and receiving messages between ground and plane.

## Usaia Shows the Way

The men of the Fiji First Battalion saw the hand of God in the decision their countryman, Usaia Soteto, a native minister of the Methodist Church, made 24 years ago when he answered the call to go to the Northern Solomons as a missionary. This is his story:

SEVERAL hundred men of the battalion were conducting large-scale reconnaissance operations deep in the Bougainville jungle, many days' march from the Allied lines. There they met a small unit which they were surprised to find included a Fijian. It was Usaia, who had enlisted in

the army after the Jap invasion and was now a sergeant. He had been out on patrol for several weeks, and his long beard and unkempt hair made him look a veritable John the Baptist.

The two parties joined up, and soon afterwards they were attacked by a numerically superior Jap force, on which they inflicted heavy casualties. The trail along which the Fijians had intended to withdraw had been blocked by the Japanese, but Usaia, who knew every inch of the ground, led the entire group safely along a secret track to the coast, where they were picked up.

## OIL ISLAND

THERE is a new island on the map—an area of only a thousand square yards.

It has been created by the building of a dam in the Gulf of St. Lawrence off the coast of Prince Edward Island. Inside the enclosed area an oil derrick has been set up on the bed of the sea, and the island had to be made strong enough to resist the pressure of about five feet of ice

when the gulf is frozen over.

Boring has been going on for some time, and it is expected that the trial drill will soon reach a depth of 14,000 feet, and there strike oil. If the optimism of the prospectors is justified, a rich oilfield at this point will not only be of great value to the war effort, but in peacetime might make eastern Canada independent of far-distant supplies.



## A NEW LEAGUE OF NATIONS

A NEW League of Nations is being advocated by spokesmen of the American Government, a fact which is the more interesting because, though the original League of Nations was planned by President Woodrow Wilson and formed part of the peace treaties made at the end of the last war, the American Congress refused to allow the United States to become a member of the League. This fatal weakness largely contributed to the failure of the League to fulfil its objects.

Mr Breckinridge Long, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, addressing the American Federation of Labour Forum on "Labour and the Post War World" the other day, spoke of the results of the State department's studies in the problems that will arise after the war. He said that they had made a thorough analysis of the mistakes of the past, of current developments, and of future possibilities, and had come to certain conclusions about the prevention of aggression and war. They are summarised in these three statements:

### Mutual Responsibility

1 The major nations, acting together with the other law-abiding States, should create an international organisation for the maintenance of peace and security.

2 The major nations, and in due course all nations, should pledge themselves not to use force against each other, or against any other nation, save in connection with any arrangements that might be made by international organisation.

3 Each of the major nations, and any other nations associated with them, should accept special responsibility for setting up and maintaining adequate forces and for using those forces in connection with arrangements made for international organisation to prevent or to suppress all disturbances of the peace.

Mr Long added that there must be a world assembly of nations, with all member States equally represented. There must be a Court of International Justice and a small council repre-

sentative of the large and small nations, endowed with adequate powers and means for maintaining the peace.

It will be seen that the American State Department, through Mr Long, speaks of a new League as a body "endowed with adequate powers," presumably to be possessed by the new League from the beginning as a working part of its machinery. "Adequate powers" to keep all the world in order would necessarily mean the formation of a big international military force wielding the concerted power of millions of men and an enormous amount of war material.

Another member of the U.S. administration, Mr James Forrestal, the Under-Secretary for the Navy, has also been using very plain language on the proposal to fortify peace by providing it with power. For, said he, "peace not backed by power will remain a dream."

### America's Part

Again, he said, "the cornerstone in any plan which undertakes to rid the world of the curse of war must be the armed might of the United States. The nation should consider seriously the need for compulsory military training, because the speed of modern war may require in future even swifter action than was needed in this war."

Mr Forrestal pointed out that this year the American Navy proposes to build 581 warships and 28,000 planes, thus completing a force to match the naval forces of the world, and declared that in his opinion it would be necessary to maintain it.

## Tried and Trusted Warrior

ONE of Hitler's worst worries at this moment must be the fear of what Frenchmen will do when the Second Front opens; and he must also face the fact that at least 300,000 French troops, magnificently trained and equipped will join in the grand assault.

They will be a formidable army, and not least among their formidable leaders will be Joseph Pierre Koenig, who has come to Britain from North Africa as chief French military liaison officer with General Eisenhower for the Northern French zone. General Koenig is formidable indeed, and his magnificent stand at Bir Hacheim, in that tragic summer battle of 1942 which preceded the grave disaster of Tobruk and the retreat to Alamein, marked perhaps the first great revival of French military prestige.

Only a great general could have held out as Koenig did, with his tiny force of Bretons and Parisians, for more than a fortnight of all-round assault by overwhelming numbers of picked Axis troops, supported by squadron after squadron of dive-bombers. The Germans and

Italians certainly never expected the beleaguered desert garrison to continue the fight, for they wasted much breath calling upon them to surrender. They received a dusty answer, dusty even for the desert.

All the same, it was a hopeless fight, for the battle was already lost. Koenig and his gallant Frenchmen had to withdraw by night, and Koenig might never have got away but for the coolness and bravery of an English girl named Susan Travers, attached to an ambulance, who drove him safely through a hail of bullets.

Because of his 20 years of campaigning experience in North Africa before the war, Koenig was kept in Africa and later went to Syria before returning to Libya. But he had commanded a battalion at Narvik before the fall of France, led Foreign Legion troops in the Syrian campaign, and altogether gained the most varied and valuable battle experience. Alsatian born, he has the complete confidence of De Gaulle, and he is young enough, at 46, to go on learning when his men march back across their native soil.

## New Hope For Italy

As a result of King Victor Emmanuel's announcement that he will retire when the Allies enter Rome, the establishment of an all-party Italian government became possible.

Such a step has been welcomed, for there has long been an impression that the most progressive and anti-Fascist parties in Italy have had no voice in the direction of affairs.

The leaders of these parties, six in number, formed what was called a Democratic Junta, and among the more prominent were Signor Longobardi, a Socialist, and Count Sforza and Signor Croce, both Democratic leaders of pre-Fascist days.

Benedetto Croce is 78 years old, but is full of vigour.

Born at Pescasseroli, in the Province of Aquila, a little to the north of the present battle-front, Croce studied at Naples, where he built up the life of learning which has expressed itself in many world-famous philosophical works. It was his series of books on The Philosophy of the Spirit which, issued between 1902 and 1916, established Croce as one of the leading thinkers of this generation.

Mussolini never ventured to interfere with the grand old philosopher's liberty. But since we knew the Nazis would have no such compunction, we sent a little expedition to rescue Benedetto Croce from any possible danger as soon as we landed.

Signor Croce has expressed his belief that throughout the ages a lasting element in the human spirit has made it possible for men of good will in all nations to talk to each other and be understood in the very midst of Babel and every possible prejudice.

Benedetto Croce believes in freedom, and he believes in goodness; and his hope for the world is in recognition of man's dignity and worth as an individual.

To such men is Italy looking now to raise her from her desperate plight and make her once again a vital influence among the peoples of the world.

## OUR NEW WEAPON

THE British Navy has adopted a new and potent weapon, the human torpedo.

Although it was first used by the Italians in October 1940 against the harbour of Gibraltar, the invention is of British origin, for in the last war Commander Godfrey Herbert submitted plans of a similar device to the Admiralty. They were rejected, however, on the grounds that the one man crew would almost certainly perish. But now the crew have every chance of survival, though they may be taken prisoner.

The new weapon is an ordinary 21-inch-diameter, 18-foot-long torpedo containing 500 lb of high explosive, which the crew of two sit astride, wearing light diving suits. When the target is reached they dive underneath, attach the head of the torpedo to the ship's bottom, set the time fuse, and escape. The torpedo is driven by a silent electric motor, and when used by night the chances of surprise are very great. In January 1943 it was employed with devastating effect against Italian shipping in Palermo harbour.

## LITTLE NEWS REELS

THE Russian offensive against the Crimea opened early in April, and within a few days more than 37,000 German prisoners had been taken, and with the exception of a small area round Sebastopol the whole of the Crimean peninsula was in Russian hands.

General Nikolai Vatutin, the victor of Kharkov and Kiev, has died at the age of 44.

Major-General W. D. Lentaigne, aged 44, has succeeded General Wingate in Burma.

New buildings costing £1,000,000 have been planned for the Aberystwyth College of the University of Wales.

All entries for the Young People's China Short Story Competition must be sent to 74 Grosvenor Street, London, W1 by May 1.

In some copies of last week's CN it was mentioned that 744 Turkish airmen had left Ankara for Britain. This should have read 44 airmen.

THE Green Cross Society is organising a competition of photographs of wild plants on London's bombed sites.

A bronze bust of Archbishop Lord Lang by Reynolds-Stephens has been presented to Canterbury Cathedral by Lord Bennett.

## Youth News Reel

THE 1st Coalpit Heath Scout Troop (Bristol) made sets of tables and chairs for a local organisation running whist drives for the Red Cross, thereby doing a good turn as well as gaining their Carpenter badges.

6000 American Boy Scouts recently canvassed thousands of homes, urging people to volunteer for highly important work at the Douglas Aircraft plants, and in appreciation of their effort four planes have been named after Scout Troops.

Forty Boy Scouts of the 10th Green and Sea Point Troop, South Africa, helped to fight a huge mountain fire, battling with

For the year beginning next July the American Navy is asking Congress for £8,161,750,000; it is the biggest naval bill in history.

The output of canned food-stuffs in this country has doubled since the war.

More than 2,750,000 blitzed houses in this country have been repaired.

The engines of four Italian submarines generated electricity for lighting Naples when it was first occupied by the Allies.

Sir George Clausen, R.A., received many tributes from his fellow artists on his 92nd birthday.

THE borough of Doncaster will this year celebrate its 750th anniversary. Its charter was granted by Richard the First.

The salvage of iron railings in this country was 577,427 tons, and £55,000 has now been paid in claims.

The number of parcels of food and comforts already sent by the Red Cross and St John to 150,000 prisoners of war in German camps is 24,000,000.

So successful have been researches in television during the war years that the B.B.C. in its recently published Year Book for 1944, proposes to establish a national service.

the flames for two days to prevent them spreading.

ON Tristan da Cunha, the lonely mid-Atlantic island, every boy of suitable age is a Scout.

Special Easter gifts, including one of £582 from Northamptonshire Guides, and another of £2 7s 6d from an Eastbourne Brownie Pack, brought the total of the Guide International Service Fund to £15,000.

The first Saturday in May, a great day for the Boys Brigade will be marked in Glasgow, city of its birth, by a special parade; and in London by a big display at the Royal Albert Hall.

## A Big Industrial Training Scheme

THE Ministry of Labour has given details to Parliament of a scheme for industrial training after the war for demobilised men and women whose careers have been interrupted by war service.

It is hoped that this scheme will increase the supply of skilled workers in industry. The industrial training will assist men and women to obtain suitable employment likely to lead to permanent resettlement. It will apply to men and women released from the armed forces, Merchant Navy, Civil Defence, National

Fire Service, Police auxiliaries, Civil Nursing Reserve, and to persons whose war work has been of national importance.

The training centres will be administered directly by the Ministry of Labour, and (in consultation with the Board of Education and the Scottish Education Department) in technical colleges or other suitable educational institutions. Adequate allowances, including payments in respect of dependants, will be paid, and training in employers' establishments, where appropriate, may be arranged.

## YOUNG AMERICA IN WESTMINSTER

THE Young America Exhibition in the lovely little College Hall at Westminster has drawn steady streams of schoolboys and schoolgirls, Scouts and Guides, cadets and members of youth organisations of many kinds. The photographs attract them, for they reveal a land of vast spaces, 3000 miles from the front line in which we stand, but keyed up for victories, in peace as well as in war. Yet the books and albums and pamphlets are an even greater attraction, for the children sit at the ancient refectory table buried deep in the news and pictures from schools and colleges across the ocean.

Toc H and the U.S. Office of War Information have "started something," as might be said by some of the sturdy British boys and girls whose American accents give the clue to what they have seen and learned in the past three and a half years. For these lucky young people have been the guests of the U.S.A., welcomed in American homes, attending American schools, joining in American life.

These are young people who can bear witness from personal experience that it is a fine life, a forward-looking life, a life we must learn to comprehend and appreciate.





### Who Are They?

The men in this picture are not Arabs; they are the R A F crew of a Transport Command plane wearing Arab robes presented to them by King Ibn Saud after they had flown to his camp in the Saudi Arabian Desert.

### HENRY KAISER LOOKS AHEAD

The indomitable Henry Kaiser has already worked out plans for his first "peace order." He is to build 30 ships for the Government of the Netherlands Indies; and anyone who has ever travelled to Java, Sumatra, Borneo, or Celebes by a Dutch boat will know what kind of ships these will be, for the Dutch have only one standard in travelling, and that is the best.

It is with the work on these ships that Henry Kaiser proposes to pass from the urgent tasks of war to the no less urgent tasks of peace. He has reserved, without interfering with war needs, all the material he will require, and he knows where to get the labour. The men who will build these ships already know that even when the war ends there will be work for them, so that they may face the new world with confident hearts and minds at ease.

### RAF WATCHDOGS

A number of watchdogs, loaned by the public, have been taken on to the strength of the Royal Air Force for the duration. They will replace part of the station policemen on patrol work, for where two men have had to do night patrols together, only one policeman and a dog will be needed on station duty.

### "Billy" Hughes Comes Back

Though he will be 80 in September, "Billy" Hughes is still making political history in Australia. This is all the more remarkable because most of Australia's prominent political leaders are almost young men still: Curtin, Menzies, Fadden, and Evatt are in the late forties or early fifties, while R. G. Casey, who has now left Australian politics to be Governor of Bengal, is only 43 years old.

But little "Billy" Hughes, who came to Australia from his birthplace in Wales when he was 20, and was first elected M P at 30, was Prime Minister of Australia from 1915 to 1923. Australia is a land where political reputations are quickly made, and as quickly forgotten. But the mercurial little Welshman is an exception. He was a

### A RECORD-MAKER'S LAST DRIVE

When Driver J. Duddington, of Doncaster, drove the LNER streamlined locomotive, Mallard, out of King's Cross Station on Easter Saturday, it was his last journey prior to retirement after 49 years of service, and many comrades gathered at the station to bid the veteran driver farewell. It was on the Mallard that Driver Duddington created Britain's fastest train record of 126 miles an hour in July 1938.

### GREAT ERRAND OF MERCY

Not the least among the magnificent efforts of the USA over here is the record of its ambulance work, which dates back long before America entered the war.

The American Ambulance Service in Great Britain began its great work in June of 1940, just after Dunkirk, and its Director-General, Mr Gilbert Carr, has given the figures of its quite startling achievements since then. Over ten million miles have been covered by his ambulances, and over half a million patients have been carried on 174,420 journeys made by 300 ambulances, surgical units, and first-aid posts.

The staff of 330 British girls have reason to be very proud of the part they have played in this splendid record.

member of the Imperial Cabinet and a delegate to the Peace Conference in the last Great War, and he is again a public figure, at the risk of serious trouble with his political colleagues. He is Deputy Leader of the Australian Opposition and one of the leaders of its chief section, the United Australia Party.

Earlier in this war the Opposition co-operated with the Australian Labour Government in its special War Advisory Council; but bitter differences arose, and Menzies, Fadden, and others resigned. Now Hughes says it is time they came back to make a really United Australia. He is putting his country before politics, risking expulsion from the Party for resuming his membership of the Council.

## THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

Ever since May 1943, when all radio sets in Holland were confiscated, Allied bombers have been dropping a London produced newspaper over there, so that Dutchmen should not be left entirely without news.

This paper, which is called *De Vliegende Hollander* (The Flying Dutchman), gives articles on every aspect of the Allied war effort, and copies of the first six issues have been bound and presented to Queen Wilhelmina.

There is evidence that these papers are widely distributed throughout the country by Dutch patriots in spite of the heavy penalties threatened. The Germans in trying to mislead the Dutch people have produced similar publications, making them appear to have come from an Allied source, but this plan has met with no success.

### LEAVE THE BIRDS ALONE

Many of the wild birds of England are helping the farmers' war effort by destroying huge numbers of insect pests. Their nesting-time is at hand, and parents and school teachers are being urged by the Ministry of Agriculture to see that children do not disturb the nests.

### A SEAMAN'S CHARTER

Delegates from twelve countries attended a conference convened by the International Transport Workers' Federation and the International Mercantile Marine Officers' Association at the London headquarters of the National Union of Seamen the other day.

No more worthy object for an international charter could be imagined; the high seas connect all nations, and the seamen who ply their great trade upon it are the servants of all mankind, carrying on a glorious tradition.

The Charter discussion called for the fixing of a national wage rate, and dealt also with war risks, war bonus, overtime, safety, social insurance, seamen's accommodation, and the rights and obligations of seafarers.

### RATIONING FOR HORSES

At a horse show held at Woodbridge, Suffolk, recently the judges warned all entrants that if any horse looked as if it had had more than its official daily rations of 20 lbs of hay and 20 lbs of oats it was liable to disqualification. But all horses shown had that lean and patriotic look, so none was disqualified.

### WILLING HEARTS

Heard in a North Riding of Yorkshire motor-bus:

"Aye, lass, it be reet wunnerful what can be done in no time wi' a bit o' elbow grease and a willin' heart. We wanted t'owd village hall cleaned oot t'other day for a party. There were nobody ter do t' work so t' school-marm axed t' lads and lassies ter get ter work, and, believe me, in less nor twenty minutes they'd got that hall spick an' span and as clean as a new pin. Aye, it were wunnerful, wunnerful, lass, how they did it."

## Gloria and Her Namesake

LYING in hospital in Christchurch, New Zealand, is nineteen-year-old Gloria Lyons, who is suffering from tuberculosis. Patient but cheerful, she faces a stay of two years. At a forward Pacific base of the R N Z A F is another Gloria Lyons, a sleek Warhawk fighter, and in the pilot's cockpit is pasted a small typewritten note: "To the pilot: Gloria Lyons is our 4SU mascot. She is doing a long term in hospital and we want both our Glorias to last a long time. 4SU, December 1943."

It all came about through a request for pen-friends from one of the airmen of Number 4 Servicing Unit being published in a New Zealand paper. Gloria saw this and replied; soon a regular correspondence was established. She tells the airman

of what goes on at home in New Zealand, while he describes to her what it is like in the tropics.

Very soon the story caught the imagination of the other airmen, and when a Warhawk with the identification letter G was passing through the maintenance line the suggestion was made that it should be named after the invalid girl, and that she should be adopted as the unit's mascot.

So, while Gloria Lyons of the Pacific front line takes the air and helps to beat the Japanese out of the skies, Gloria Lyons away in Christchurch waits patiently, following their fortunes keenly and hopefully.

We can be quite sure that the thoughts of the boys of Number 4 Servicing Unit are with the welfare of both Glorias.

### FOR THE CHILDREN

Dr Malcolm Sargent is to conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra in a gift performance in aid of the children's wing of the Battersea Central Mission. The concert will be held in the Albert Hall at 7 o'clock on May 3; Dame Myra Hess will be the soloist.

Dr Sargent hopes to raise a big sum of money towards an X-ray apparatus costing £1400.

As the result of a similar concert given by Dr Sargent last spring a Treatment Room for 20 children was equipped.

### HELPING THE BLIND TAXPAYER

To help blind workers with their income tax problems, the National Institute has issued a Braille edition of the Government's Pay-as-you-Earn pamphlet.

In this country at the present time, the institute says, 6767 sightless wage-earners are known to be engaged in war industry, many of them in aircraft and other munition factories. There are 2679 blind persons holding salaried posts or engaged in private professional practice.

### FLOODLIT TUNNEL

Railway engines have to do such heavy service in these times that they have sometimes to be examined at a depot between dusk and daylight for duty next day.

The LNER is trying an experiment with a new "light tunnel" on the East Coast main line—the first of its kind in this country. During darkness the locomotive is run into the tunnel, and by means of floodlighting it is examined without delay and made ready for service again before daylight.

### THE HIDDEN HOARD OF GOLD

For some years bees have worried the family of a farmer at Wootton, Kent, by getting inside the walls. Recently the plaster was stripped off one wall in an attempt to remove the nuisance. Nearly 70,000 bees were found, and were successfully nived. A large quantity of honey which had already started to trickle through a ceiling was collected.



### Young Russia Growing Up

A painting lesson for sturdy young Russians in a kindergarten at Leningrad



## The EDITOR'S TABLE

### The Encouragement of Literature

THE well-known publisher, Mr Stanley Unwin, recently addressing the Royal Institution, entered a plea for the encouragement of book production. Every week the war lasted, he said, the battle for books had to be fought afresh.

We are glad to endorse this plea for the encouragement of literature in war-time. We also note with pleasure Mr Unwin's statement that young people are increasingly turning to books, and to good books.

### A Minister of Water

REPEATED shortages of water supply are giving strength to the opinion expressed in a second report on post-war planning issued by the British Waterworks Association, that a Ministry of Water should be appointed to be responsible for the conservation and use of all water resources.

It seems obvious that our water resources should be regarded in a national rather than a local aspect; that there should be a Central Water Authority to conserve water, and to consider and decide conflicts between various authorities competing for water. Also that there should be a Board of Public Water Supply, with general powers, dealing with all water interests.

In such a small and well watered island there ought to be no difficulty in organising a dependable supply.

### One People Over Another

GENERAL SMUTS, who has said so many notable things in this war and the last, has recently uttered the following words in application to the whole world:

*I think that the idea of the annexation or domination of one people over another, of one man over another, is an idea of the past.*

Not without reason is General Smuts regarded as one of the wisest of the world's leaders.

## Under the Editor's Table

To save coal, housewives on washing day share each other's coppers. Save pence too.

A MOTHER says she likes to cook at least one square meal a day. But she has to make it go round.

Boys with big feet are often shy. But they make a good impression.

A SUCCESSFUL author has sold an unwritten book. But won't be satisfied with an unwritten cheque.

### Peter Puck Wants to Know



What you may do on May Day

A GENERAL declares that marching is an antidote for illness. Taking steps to get cured.

SITES owned by local authorities are meant to cover 200,000 houses. Someone will have to dig them up.

PATRONS are annoyed that some public baths are to be closed for two days to save fuel. They will go off the deep end.

WATCH-DOGS are now joining the R.A.F. Skye terriers?

## THE NATION'S REAL BUDGET

WE need not be good mathematicians to understand in broad outline our nation's financial statement. The ledger has been laid open before us, our debit and credit balances are revealed, and we are able to get a fairly clear idea where we stand.

But there are some things the Budget does not state. Our total assets and total liabilities are more and larger than can be expressed in figures. Unfortunately, we have other liabilities, and happily we have other assets. We must appreciate both.

We have many latent liabilities. The most latent, perhaps, lies hidden in the lethargy of some of our people's lives. Lazy people are always a liability; so are laggards when the nation has a mind to move forward. Selfish individualists create social debts, and those who try to benefit at the expense of their fellows are in that category.

But we have our latent assets as well. They are not listed on the credit side of things, for they are incalculable. But they make and keep our nation solvent, and because of them Britain is sublimely rich. Who

can tell the true wealth of our land as it finds expression in the character and craftsmanship of our people? Who would dare to compute the cash value of those hundreds of thousands of ordinary men and women whose humble homes are castles of contentment? Who could calculate the sterling worth of tomorrow's men and women, accumulating wealth in body, mind, and soul, as they graduate through youth and pass with measured step from adolescence to maturity?

The total assets of our beloved land are not in bonds, but in the bone and sinew of our people; not in capital, but in clear consciences. Our real wealth is not stored in vaults, it is on the wing, it is in the vision of our people, young and old, from the humblest to the highest, who realise the true purpose of their sojourn on this little island.

We are here, one and all, as trustees, to have and to use the potentialities of life against the time when the Divine Auditor comes to examine our accounts. Have we the sure and certain confidence that they will be found correct?

### Wordsworth's Daffodils

A LAKELAND correspondent writes to tell the CN that not for a long time has there been a better show of daffodils by Lake Ullswater than this year, although, as he says, "I doubt if there are as many as when Wordsworth saw them. Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze."

And the reason?

Again according to our correspondent, "during the last few years their number seemed to be growing less, and it was feared by some that if people did not leave them alone they would

become extinct." Not content with taking the flowers, many people dug out the bulbs!

Now we are happy to record an improvement, which our correspondent maintains is due to petrol restrictions enabling fewer trippers to visit the scene.

Wordsworth pictured the scene for us 140 years ago, and thrilling it is to think of the descendants of those very daffodils now spreading their golden carpet by the lake. And shameful it would be if the action of a thoughtless few should rob future generations of the wondrous sight.

### FOR WAR-WORKERS ONLY

A COMMENDABLE wartime experiment was recently carried out in a London borough, where a special sale "for War-Workers Only" was held at a local store. It was such a marked

success that other big shops all over London have been invited to follow suit.

Factory managers, welfare officers, and trade union officials are joining in the appeal. Stocks are to be saved for the exclusive benefit of war-workers whose duties prevent them from shopping throughout the week during ordinary hours.

It is only right that the men and women who are working so hard to pile up supplies needed for the Second Front should be able to share the bargains which are too frequently snapped up by those who have more time to spare!

It seems to us, however, essential that the shops concerned should have adequate means of discriminating between war-workers and others.

### JUST AN IDEA

What many people forget about a hard task is that there is sure to be some fun in it somewhere.



### The Boarding Officer

A Wren officer climbing a ship's boarding ladder to see the cap of a merchant ship just arrived in convoy. Boarding Officers specially selected for this duty with the Naval Control Service, who sometimes entails journeys of some miles in drifters or launch.

## INDIA TELLS AMERICA

Two representatives of the Indian people have been telling Americans lately something about the colossal war effort of India which is helping to meet the invasion threat which the Japs have opened on her north-eastern frontier. Seeing that two million Indians are volunteers in the Army, and five million more are making munitions, it is no wonder that the Japs should try to launch what the military experts call a "spoiling attack" before our own vast enterprise for driving them out of Burma and Malaya takes shape.

The two Indians who have gone to the States to explain what their country is doing and intends to do are Mr Ghiasuddin, a member of the Central Legislative Assembly of India, and a young Socialist delegate to the International Labour Conference, Mr Rajaram Ramje Bhole, youngest member of the Bombay

Legislative Assembly. Neither of these men regards the Japanese thrust at Imphal as a threat to India, but merely as a measure of the alarm which the preparations of India for the great sweep forward on the road to Tokyo have aroused in the minds of Tojo and his circle.

One vivid statistical picture they gave—and Americans like statistics—was of the extent of India's airfield construction since the war with Japan began. The airfields she has built on her own soil, with her own labour were laid end to end, they say they would make a broad highway long enough to link New York with Chicago, nearly 14,000 miles. That was an achievement which Americans could appreciate, however little they may know of India and the Indian people, an achievement bodiless good to the perpetrators of the Pearl Harbour treachery.

## The Nation and Its Coal

IN the CN of March 25 it was pointed out that it has become absolutely necessary to seek a new way in the coal industry. Labour troubles in the coalfields this year have cost the country about a million tons of coal.

We welcome, therefore, the Conservative Reform Committee's proposals for a national policy for coal, including a charter for the miners. The Committee think that the Government should take steps to promote efficient production of coal, and that the industry should be organised by reducing the number of colliery undertakings from 1000 to 200, with an eventual further reduc-

tion to between 40 and 60 undertakings. They think that there should be schemes of amalgamation to this end, but they do not propose nationalisation.

The proposed miners' charter provides for security of employment and a minimum income. The minimum income should be guaranteed in the form of a minimum wage based on a five-day week and a seven-hour day.

The production of such a scheme as this shows that the mining industry cannot expect ever to carry on in conditions that endanger the nation and rob it of wealth in both war and peace.



## He Charted the Atlantic Currents

A COACH accident in America just over a hundred years ago is one of the reasons why the Merchant Navy is so efficient today. A certain Lieutenant Matthew Fontaine Maury was one of the victims of this accident. On being extricated from the overturned coach, it was found that one of his legs was so badly injured that he was no longer fit for service at sea.

Maury was given, therefore, a shore billet, in which he served the science of navigation to the lasting benefit of the whole world.

Matthew Maury was born near Fredericksburg in Virginia in 1806 and at 19 entered the American navy as a midshipman. His first cruise lasted four years, taking him round the globe, and at the early age of 30 he wrote a treatise on navigation.

When Maury had recovered from his accident he was appointed to the Depot of Charts and Instruments, which later developed into the US Naval Observatory and Hydrographic Office. His work led him to study tides and ocean currents which in those days were practically unknown quantities.

### The Discarded Log-Books

One day he came across a great accumulation of ships' log-books which had been discarded as waste. He began to go through them, with all the interest of a seaman in the technicalities of seafaring, and whenever he came across any reference to wind or currents which had been made by one of these long-dead skippers, he jotted it down. From this mass of data he constructed the first Atlantic Pilot Chart—a map, as it were, of Atlantic currents and prevailing winds, full of errors and guesses, and yet, he felt certain, an improvement on the "blind" sailing which up to that time had been the practice of Atlantic skippers.

Studying his new chart, Maury plotted a new sailing course between the USA and Rio, in which he took advantage of tides, winds, and currents. But when he suggested to seamen that they should try the new course, he got nothing but scornful laughter from most of them. There was one captain, however, who had enough of the pioneer in him to offer to use Maury's "new-fangled" idea on his next voyage, and the result was startling.

Steering by the new chart, his ship made the return voyage in less time than the outward voyage alone usually took. Maury and his ideas had arrived!

Captains who had previously scoffed at Maury now rushed to co-operate with him. Under his direction they took with them on their voyages hundreds of bottles which they threw overboard at various points, so that their drift could determine the

set of ocean currents. They also kept more detailed records of winds and tides than they had done before, and as soon as a ship came into port these records would be sent off to Maury post-haste so that he could keep his charts constantly up to date and as accurate as possible. His collection of logs made 200 manuscript volumes, each containing some 2500 days' observations.

For ten years Maury worked in this way—worked, very often, almost night and day compiling, correcting, and issuing, chart after chart. Every new one helped to shorten a voyage and increase the volume of seaborne traffic, not only for the USA but for most other maritime nations. The British Association estimated that if his charts could be extended to cover the winds and currents of other oceans, British shipping alone would save two million pounds a year because of shortened voyages.

The great traveller-scientist Humboldt declared that Maury had founded a new science. Yet for all his work he was receiving no more than an ordinary naval lieutenant's pay, and at last even that was taken from him when, because of the jealousy of a few superiors, he was dismissed from his post at the Observatory and retired on half-pay. It was in this very year, 1855, that his book *The Physical Geography of the Sea* was published, a work which was translated into many European languages.

### Promoted at Last

Luckily the American people were as alive to injustices then as they are today, and so great a clamour arose that Maury was reinstated and promoted.

The remainder of Maury's career—he died at Lexington, Virginia, in 1873—has little concern with his great life-work. When the American Civil War broke out, he left Government service to fight on the side of the South, and later he came as an exile to Britain. But these are unimportant matters compared with the start he gave to the science of charting the seas, and the foundations he laid for our present Atlantic "life-line." He developed seaborne commerce enormously, and, if the knowledge of "short cuts" across the oceans serves us well today, our thanks are largely due to this half-forgotten American.

## WATER FOR DRY AUSTRALIA

FROM South Australia comes the good news that on the River Murray a great irrigation scheme has reached success by which hundreds of millions of gallons of water will be carried great distances to add to the fertility of the land. The Governor, Sir Charles Barclay-Harvey, spoke of it as one of the greatest national undertakings in all Australia when he opened the scheme at Morgan, on the River Murray.

The chief details are: at a distance of 223 miles from the Murray, the important town of Whyalla gets 1200 million gallons of water in a year; 900,000 gallons will be supplied to the northern districts and the Commonwealth railway system; the 27 storage tanks have a total capacity of 44 million gallons. The construction has taken three years and cost about £3,000,000. South Australia is to be heartily congratulated.

## CARRY ON

### Continue to be Just

You will have temptation sent you—you, the labouring people of this country, and when you have become supreme to such a degree that there is no other power to balance and counteract the power you possess you will have approaching you a deep and searching moral control.

You will have to preserve the balance of your mind and character when you have fought the struggle with the capitalist and aristocrat and great mercantile classes. When you have become in a sense the political masters you have still before you one achievement to fulfil, one glory to attain and to appropriate to yourselves—to *continue to be just*. I venture to give you that warning of the future. It applies to the coming days more than to the days that are past.

IV. E. Gladstone

### TOO DEEP FOR TEARS

THANKS to the human heart by which we live, Thanks to its tenderness, its joys, and fears, To me the meanest flower that blows can give Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears. *Wordsworth*

### For Good or For Evil

You may put poison in an earthen pitcher, and the pitcher be washed after, and none the worse. But you can take nothing into the soul that does not indelibly infect it, whether for good or for evil. *Socrates*

### NOW CAME STILL EVENING ON

Now came still evening on, and twilight grey Had in her sober livery all things clad; Silence accompanied: for beast and bird, They to their grassy couch, these to their nests, Were sunk, all but the wakeful nightingale; She all night long her amorous descant sung; Silence was pleased: now glowed the firmament With living sapphires; Hesperus, that led The starry host, rode brightest, till the moon, Rising in clouded majesty, at length Apparent queen, unveiled her peerless light, And o'er the dark her silver mantle threw. *John Milton*

### Praise and Thanksgiving

I PRAISE Thee while my days go on; I love Thee while my days go on; Through dark and dearth, through fire and frost, With emptied arms and treasure lost, I thank Thee while my days go on. *E. B. Browning*

## HOLIDAY IN SPRING

OUT of the city, far away With spring today!— Where cypresses tufted with primrose Give me repose, Wood-sorrel and wild violet Soothe my soul's fret, The pure delicious vernal air Blows away care, The birds' reiterated songs Heal fancied wrongs. Down the rejoicing brook my grief Drifts like a leaf, And on its gently murmuring flow Doth glide and go; The bud-besprinkled boughs and hedges, The sprouting sedges Waving beside the water's brink, Come like cool drink To fevered lips, like fresh soft mead To kine that feed.

Much happier than the kine, I bed My dreaming head In grass; I see far mountains blue, Like heaven in view, Green world and sunny sky above Alive with love; All, all, however, came they there, Divinely fair.

Is this the better oracle, Or what streets tell? O base confusion, falsehood, strife, Man puts in life! Sink, thou Life-Measurer! I can say "I've lived a day;" And Memory holds it now in keeping. Awake or sleeping.

*William Allingham*

## The Power of Evolution

WE sow a seed, and what is it that happens? All the forces of the universe are set to work to build that seed into something great or beautiful, but in their vast workshop there is no sign of turmoil, no sound but the gentle falling of the rain or the blowing of the wind.

Man does great things with his noisy schemes, his whirling wheels, his jangling chains, and the throb and hum of his engines; but man, in all his years on earth, has done nothing to compare with one year's work of Nature, so slow that we cannot see it

move, so still that we cannot hear it, yet so perfect that we stand in awe at the wonder of it all.

Nature has something to teach us, surely, as the makers of our lovely summers go down to their rest. It is not noise that counts; it is not those who shout who matter most; it is not Revolution, but Evolution that will build up this broken world. *In quietness and confidence shall be our strength.* For a man and a nation and mankind the ancient words are true. *Arthur Mee*

## GIVE US MEN

GIVE us men! Men from every rank: Men of thought and reading, Men of light and leading, Free and fresh and frank, England's wealth and welfare speeding; Men of faith and faction, Men of lofty aim and action: Give us men; I say again, Give us men!

Give us men! Men, whose lives reflect the beauty

Of the saints of olden times, Men who know and do their duty, As from rock to rock they climb; If they stumble, born of women, All the humbler, all the stronger Haply struggling on the longer; Not angelic, nobly human, Very men of flesh and blood Yet of heaven's own brotherhood, Men of God: Give us men, I say again, Give us men.

*Bishop E. H. Bickersteth*



THIS ENGLAND

The thatched gatehouse and church, Long Compton, Warwickshire



## RICE FROM AFRICAN SWAMPS

SHADRACH, Meshach, and Abednego were the heroes of a special occasion near Freetown, Sierra Leone, recently. No miracle had taken place, translating the three Biblical characters from their fiery furnace to this town on the West Coast of Africa, the "heroes" actually being three giant excavators.

The giants were so named by the Drainage and Irrigation Engineer because, as he said, "they are going to a very hot place, you know!" The occasion was a special inaugural demonstration of the work of these red-painted monsters, attended by His Excellency the Acting Governor and many other prominent officials.

Behind this demonstration is a story of struggle against natural forces, and also those of prejudice and superstition. The three excavators will be used first in the Scarries area—40 miles north along the coast from Freetown—where the Great and Little Scarries rivers join and enter the sea. The coast here is flat and heavily wooded with mangroves extending along the river banks for many miles. In the rainy season the rivers overflow and irrigate this swampy land, sweeping away the salt water. Here the struggle began.

It was discovered some years ago that rice could be grown on these swamp lands year after year without diminishing their fertility. British policy has been to encourage and sponsor this development in order to increase rice production and relieve the over-cultivated uplands. Mangrove trees had to be felled, and this was a difficult task rendered even more difficult by the African fear of demons who are supposed to lurk in the dark, tangled forests. Prejudice against working in mud, and difficulties of

transport also had to be overcome.

By 1930 some 40,000 acres of such land had been cleared and were producing rice. A survey by a British Agricultural Officer of the tidal reaches of all the main rivers in Sierra Leone revealed that about half a million acres of fertile land awaited development, and now a loan of £265,000 and a free grant of £38,000 have been made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act towards this great work.

The Government has set up experimental and demonstration farms at strategic points in the area to test new varieties of rice and to show farmers how to improve their crops. A staff of expert British irrigation and drainage engineers provide control over the flood waters and regulate the depth and time of flooding by the building of embankments and sluices. Agricultural officers and their trained African assistants advise farmers about seeds and other aspects of rice cultivation. Co-operative marketing societies have been started, modern rice mills installed, and transport improved.

Modern methods and modern machinery have now been introduced, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will play a most important part, not only in increasing rice production, but also in reclaiming more land for settlement by returned men of the Forces when the war is won.

## Germany's Old Soldiers

THE celebration, at the great age of 103, of General Theodor von Bonhard's 85th "birthday" in the German Army is a piece of news which Goebbels found useful the other day to distract his anxious fellow-countrymen.

This ancient Bavarian warrior, Germany's oldest soldier, has no near rivals to his unique record of service. True, he was too old for the last war, but he won the Iron Cross in 1870, early in the Franco-Prussian campaign, and was present on that fateful occasion at Versailles in 1871 when Wilhelm I, King of Prussia, was crowned German Emperor.

Another old soldier of today who was also at that gathering which laid the seeds of two world wars, was a young subaltern named von Mackensen. He was not too old for the First World War, and indeed covered himself with glory in a lightning campaign against Rumania.

Von Mackensen, now 94, was undoubtedly one of the greatest German generals of the last war, but he was also a man of honour, and there would be no room for him in the Hitlerian Wehrmacht of today, even if he were not too old. It used to be said that this remarkable man, who has never associated with the Nazis, was of Scots descent, and that he was in fact a Mackenzie, descended from one of the many Scottish soldiers of fortune who served the Swedes, the Russians, and the Prussians with equal impartiality and success in the 17th and 18th centuries.

However that may be, he and von Bonhard are the only two high officers of the German war machine who saw the rise of "Greater Germany" and are now likely to witness its last downfall.

## When Victor Emmanuel Was Young

King Victor Emmanuel of Italy has declared his intention to withdraw from public affairs and to appoint his son Prince Umberto as Lieutenant of the Realm when the Allies enter Rome. He has taken this step in the interests of true national unity.

There was a time when Victor Emmanuel was not only a friend of this country, and of all free countries, but had great admiration for the British way of life.

Brought up very harshly, with a strict tutor who gave him little opportunity for diversion or relaxation, Victor Emmanuel turned to English authors for solace. He read English easily, and he had a special liking as a boy for contemporary English books for children.

A friend of the CN tells us that the other day he chanced to be going through some bookshelves in search of old-time Victorian books for boys and girls. He thought, very rightly, that the delightful works of Mrs E. M. Molesworth would be worth inspection, so he turned up a first edition of her charming story *The Tapestry Room*. On the title-page he read:

"Dedicated by permission to H R H Vittorio Emanuele, Crown Prince of Italy, one of the kindest of my readers. Maison de Chanoine, October 1879."

## THE MOON & JUPITER A Weird Telescopic Spectacle

AN interesting spectacle may be observed on Sunday evening next, April 30, when the planet Jupiter will appear to be below the lower cusp of the Moon, which will be at First Quarter phase, writes the CN Astronomer.

As soon as the gathering twilight permits Jupiter to be perceived, he will be seen apparently a little way to the left of the Moon and at a slightly lower altitude, but after 10 o'clock the Moon's growing proximity will be obvious, and by about 11 o'clock she will be just above Jupiter and apparently less than her own diameter away.

Actually, however, it is a vast distance which separates Jupiter from the Moon, for he is now 478,000,000 miles away, whereas the Moon is only 245,000 miles distant from us. This proximity of the Moon to the Earth has the effect of providing a different perspective of the position of Jupiter relative to the Moon; consequently this event as observed from other parts of the Earth may be very different. For instance, the farther anyone travelled southwards from Britain the nearer would the Moon appear to Jupiter, until finally, as seen from Southern Europe, the Mediterranean region, and Africa, the Moon would be seen to pass in front of Jupiter, thus completely occulting him, as astronomers say.

Then, owing to the Moon being only at First Quarter phase, a most interesting sight would be presented, because Jupiter would vanish some way to the left of the bright portion of the Moon, and so we should see Jupiter gradually becoming fainter. The process takes nearly two minutes to obliterate Jupiter, whereas a star vanishes suddenly. Observed telescopically, next Sunday's event may be greatly enhanced because then the great world of Jupiter appears no larger than many of the lunar craters, and would fit neatly into some of them. Actually Jupiter is an immense sphere about 41 times the width of the Moon. His four



The proximity of Jupiter to the Moon on Sunday next

large satellites also add to the interest, for they will all appear sufficiently close to the Moon to be seen in the same field-of-view of the lower telescopic powers, and so most interesting comparisons may be made.

It is when Jupiter is occulted that the spectacle is so fascinating when observed through a telescope, particularly when the Moon is at crescent, or, as in this case, at First Quarter phase; for then, as it is the dark sunless portion of the Moon which first begins to hide Jupiter and his moons, as the writer has observed it, a most weird and singular scene is presented. Jupiter's moons on that side begin by vanishing one by one, as if blotted out by some "hidden hand"; usually intervals of a few minutes occur in the process. Then the disc of Jupiter begins to assume an extraordinary shape as if an invisible "something" was gradually devouring the planet; finally in the course of between one and two minutes the remaining fragment of the planet seems to disappear mysteriously, to be followed soon after by any of Jupiter's moons which may happen to be on the left side of his disc.

Some time later, perhaps as much as an hour, Jupiter will reappear from the opposite bright edge of the Moon. In this case the spectacle is not quite so entertaining. His moons will appear first, and suggest stars shot up from the Moon's bright edge, or limb, as astronomers call it. Then Jupiter makes his appearance gradually, like a growing mountain on the Moon's edge; but in the course of a minute it is seen to be a belted sphere which finally breaks away, to be followed by the rest of Jupiter's moons, and they drift away like celestial bubbles as if the Moon had just blown them off. The possibility of such a spectacle awaits us, but not this year—unless we happen to be at, say, Gibraltar, or preferably the Canary Islands.

G. F. M.

## BEDTIME CORNER Pussy Brings Good Luck

ONE morning while Nina was helping Mummy with the cooking, the kitchen door opened and in walked a fine cat.

Nina thought it had come to stay, and she was very disappointed when it ran out the first time the door opened.

Nina ran after it—down the whole length of the garden, through the hedge, and right into the grounds of the old man who lived next door.

The old man was their landlord. Old Grumpy, Nina called him; she had never seen him, but who but a grumpy old man would ask Daddy to leave a house he had lived in and loved for twelve years.

As she came out from the hole in the hedge she ran full tilt into a little bent figure of an old man. At first Nina thought it was Old Grumpy himself, but one look at the gentle, smiling face relieved her mind.

"The cat!" she gasped. "Did you see where it went?"

The old gentleman nodded towards the house.

"I've no doubt at all," he said, "that you'll find her in there."

"I daren't go in," Nina answered. "I might meet Old Grumpy."

"Who's that?" he asked.

Nina told him. And he seemed so friendly that she told him all about the house and Daddy's troubles too.

He listened gravely. "I dare say," he said at last, "that something can be done



to put all that right. I am an invalid, and leave everything to my agent."

"Ycu!" she exclaimed. "Are you—you can't be—"

But he was. Nina loved him on the spot.

They became tremendous friends. And, of course, they did not have to move.



## Norway's Proud Record

THIS April has seen the fourth complete year of Nazi domination in Norway; the last year has seen her plight grow worse, with more drastic measures of coercion, more arrests, deportations, and executions, and more stringent conditions of life generally for the people.

But Norwegians have drawn comfort from the fact that conditions have deteriorated also for the Nazis, and Allied successes have had no small effect in Norway. The exodus from the Quisling Party has grown apace, and the morale of its members continues to fall. There are more cases of panic, desertion, and suicide by German soldiers, who sense the impending defeat. For the same reasons, the spirits of the Norwegian people have been high, and they have been particularly cheered by the exploits of the Norwegian armed forces.

A seafaring nation, Norway looks first to her seamen. And in December 1943 the Norwegian Navy achieved one of its greatest successes when the destroyer Stord played an important part in crippling the German battleship Scharnhorst off the North Cape. Another new Norwegian warship, the submarine Ula, has also done distinguished service and sunk many thousand tons of enemy shipping since its commission last May. Apart from this, Norwegian warships have performed continuous duties of a less spectacular nature, protecting convoys, sweeping mines, and so on.

That a Norwegian warship was instrumental in helping to sink the Scharnhorst was the more pleasing as this German battle-

ship was part of the considerable German fleet that attacked the tiny Norwegian garrison on Spitsbergen in September 1943. This action has been another source of pride to Norwegians during the last year. The garrison of barely a hundred men fought valiantly and forced from the Germans in their communiqué an admission of "fierce resistance."

The Norwegian Air Force has won the most notable distinction of possessing a fighter squadron described as the highest-scoring squadron of any stationed in Great Britain during 1943. Like the Norwegian fighter squadrons, the Norwegian Coastal Command squadron has done excellent service, patrolling the Atlantic Ocean and the Norwegian coast.

### A Record-Breaking Tanker

The Norwegian Merchant Fleet, despite its heavy losses, has continued to make a very great contribution to the United Nations' war effort. Its services in the Mediterranean theatre of war have been particularly valuable. A Norwegian ship was first to enter Oran in North Africa, while another was first to enter Reggio when Italy was invaded. Less spectacular but equally essential has been the steady carriage of supplies across the Atlantic to the British Isles. One record-breaking Norwegian tanker has brought 300,000 tons of aircraft fuel over to Britain, sufficient for a hundred 1000-bomber raids on Germany.

These tangible expressions of Norwegian ability to hit back at the Nazis have been the greatest source of inspiration and comfort to the Norwegian people. It has reinforced the resistance on the Home Front and enabled them to bear such heavy blows as the deportation of their students and Army officers to Germany.

As King Haakon truly said, in an anniversary message to his people, "For all Norwegians, at home and abroad, these have been your long and difficult years, but today, not only do we hope, but we know, that the hour of liberation will soon strike."

## SERVICE IN THE HOME

WHAT an admirable idea is this which women of the British Legion are now discussing! They wish to establish a Home Service Corps of ex-Service women to ease the problem of domestic help after the war.

It will be, we imagine, akin to the Corps of Commissionaires, which has lent such dignity to the ex-soldiers and sailors who perform their grave duties outside big hotels and stores, and in business offices. These men wear uniform reminiscent of their active and distinguished past, and perhaps the Home Service Corps will also have its own uniform, complete with badges of former rank. These ex-Service women will have a club as a beginning, probably in some country town where there are many people who need domestic help, but do not want "servants" living in. From such a club the first recruits for the new Domestic Order would be drawn, and the Legion will look after pay and conditions of work.

That word "servant" is perhaps the chief cause of the trouble in present-day domestic labour. It is, illogically enough, full of meanings which are altogether absent from the word Service. If these workers knew that they were to have fixed hours, that they would live in their own clubs and come and go on their duty just like other workers, there would be ready and willing help in thousands of homes where none exists today.

### LULU THE HEN

A New Zealand soldier in the Middle East tells in a letter home of "Lulu," a Tunisian hen acquired as a mascot by one of the units of the Second NZEF. Lulu was smuggled across to Italy in a small box and behaved marvellously on board, although she had to remain down below all the time in the men's stuffy quarters. In Italy she is having the time of her life, the soldier writes, with plenty of grass, straw, lizards and bugs. What is more, she is laying.

Lulu has already travelled close on 5000 miles, much of the time in action. Truly can she claim that she is a seasoned warrior!

## The Immortal Guide

It is a dead hand that enables us to identify the remains of the Rome that Augustus made magnificent. Today the world is wondering once more where lies the hand that, 19 centuries ago, drew the immortal Roman picture. The Russians have recaptured Ovidopol, on the estuary of the Dniester, and it is common supposition that the name of the town shows that it was there that Ovid, banished for ever by Augustus, lived, died, and was buried.

But scholarship more precise holds that Tomi, the named place of his banishment, cannot have been what we now call Ovidopol, but was in fact Constanza, a Rumanian port on the Black Sea. No one knows the actual truth of the matter, but all the world knows ancient Rome from the description left by the exiled poet.

Disgraced and exiled from the capital, Ovid wrote a series of poems, lamentations over his sad

fate in a barbarous land, and sent them by the hand of trusted friends to Rome, in the hope that they might come to the notice of Augustus and soften his unrelenting heart. In one of the books the poet imagines the journey that it will take through Rome, and sets forth the route that it must follow. All the great buildings are described and their purpose named. They form almost the only key to the Roman remains that survived from that mighty age.

Had Roman London, York, Verulam, Silchester, and other cities of ancient renown in Britain had an Ovid, we should have the history of those wonderful days in our native land. They had no Ovid, so all we know about them is a tale told by pickaxes pried by the hands of modern excavators. Ovid is lost, but the work he did in a few sad hours is an everlasting guide to the Eternal City.

## How Old King Coal Saved London

NEVER until now have our interests and the hope of a prosperous issue from war been so closely linked with the coal industry, the strikes in which, now happily ended, menaced us and our Allies alike. Had such withdrawals of miners' labour come in past days, the health of London would have been affected in a way that only a veteran minority remember. For coal paid for the conversion of London from a city of stench and disease into a city of health and pleasure.

Although famous throughout the world for wealth and population, London a century ago was a city of evil cesspools, so in 1847 an Act was passed enforcing the conveyance of sewage into the public sewers. The result was that 30,000 London cesspools emptied, through the sewers, into the Thames. The banks of the river became seriously polluted, particularly at low tide, endangering the health and lives even of our legislators assembled at the Houses of Parliament.

### Great New Highways

It was therefore decided that the drainage of London should be completed and all pollution excluded from the river. But experts showed that the construction of so many sewers at one time would make traffic impossible; there would be no through passage for vehicles.

Eventually Parliament resolved to turn the boggy, malarious north shore of the Thames into dry land, to embank it, so increasing the scour of the river, and providing a new highway, 100 feet wide, with broad footpaths from Westminster to Blackfriars Bridge. From that point a new road was decreed, stretching up to the Mansion House. Underneath these great new highways was built the low level sewer that, avoiding Ludgate Hill, Fleet Street, and the Strand, averted danger to St Paul's Cathedral and Somerset House, the foundations of which would have been imperilled by the necessary deep excavations for the pipes.

So far so good. But where was the money for the work to

come from? A London improvement, it had to be paid for by London. Extra rates levied on property would not suffice, so what was to be done? Old King Coal came mightily to the rescue! Under ancient charters the Corporation of the City of London was empowered to levy three taxes—4d, 3d, and 1d, on every ton of coal that came by sea up the Thames to the capital.

Being about to expire, the imposts were extended in operation until 1881. The Corporation was permitted to retain the fourpences for its public work; the ninepences were devoted to the making of the Victoria and Chelsea Embankments on the north side of the river, while, on the south side, out of the same fund came the Albert Embankment, stretching from Westminster Bridge to Vauxhall.

### Profitable Toll

The yield from London's seaborne coal was so profitable that all three embankments, and the great system of drainage, were paid for by it, while at the same time the City Corporation, out of its fourpences, built the splendid Holborn Viaduct to make traffic at all times possible over what had been a steep valley which heavy vehicles could not pass in wet or slippery weather.

In those fruitful days coal flowed in unchecked abundance, and, producing its myriad ninepences and fourpences at the cost of London fuel-consumers, wrought the greatest public benefit by which the capital has ever been blessed. Thus the health and amenities of London may be said to be founded on coal.

## "...and the LIGHTS will come back"

Have you ever thought that kiddies are growing up who have never seen a lighted street lamp? It is a strange world that children are living in to-day, and yet they are thriving.

'Milk of Magnesia' has done a good job in helping to keep the health standard of children high by correcting minor upsets of the digestion, so important in the 'growing-up' period.

By helping to safeguard our children, 'Milk of Magnesia' is assisting in building the sound health of the men and women of to-morrow.



### 'MILK OF MAGNESIA'

'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia

## SPRING MEDICINE FOR CHILDREN



Blotches and pimples on a child's face are a sure sign that the system is clogged with waste matter.

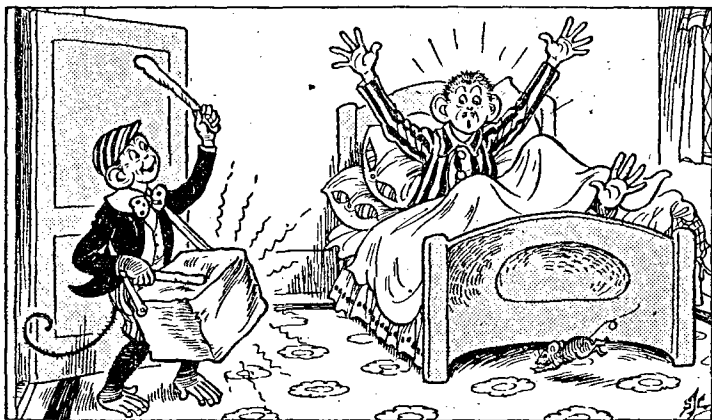
For a quick safe remedy, wise mothers use 'California Syrup of Figs' to cleanse the system and purify the blood.

Get a bottle of 'California Syrup of Figs' to-day, and give your little one a dose at bedtime. Continue for a few nights. The skin will soon become clear, fresh and glowing. More important, you will see an improvement in your child's health, for 'California Syrup of Figs' is a natural, blood-purifying laxative. Mothers who use 'California Syrup of Figs' for their kiddies, find that it keeps them regular, well and happy.

Obtainable everywhere, at 1/4 and 2/6.



## Jacko Sounds the Alarm



**A**DOLPHUS had broken his alarm clock and so he asked Jacko to wake him—and to make sure of it. "Well, I don't know who's going to wake me first," said Jacko, "but I'll do my best." Sure enough, at the appointed hour next morning Jacko appeared with a big tin as drum and proceeded to beat it furiously. Adolphus awoke with a start—and so did Father Jacko, Mother Jacko, and all the neighbours. And Jacko, for some reason or other, has been told never to act as an alarm clock again.

### JUMBLED TOWNS

If you place the letters of each of the following phrases in a different order they spell the names of six well-known towns in England.

THAT MOONS UP IN WORDS  
SCORNED AT SHAG TINS  
COLD HARE SCREAM THEN

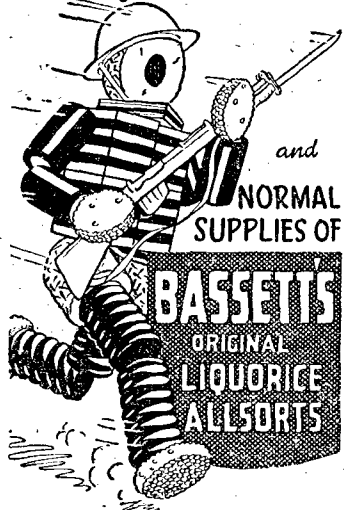
Answer next week

## MONEY FOR NETTLES

Wanted for Making Medicines

Write asking for full details to  
Chief Chemist, E.G.H. Laboratories  
Ltd., P.O. Box 407, Manchester.

## FORWARD TO VICTORY!



Apologies to customers unable to  
obtain BASSETT'S—due to Zoning

## SHORTHAND

**DUTTON ONE-WEEK SHORT-HAND** is accepted by the Services and examining bodies. Learnt in 12 2-hour lessons. Send 3d. Stamps for First Lesson. Write Dept. C.N. 92-3, Great Russell St., W.C.1.

## IN ONE WEEK

### A Cannibal Spider

**T**HE great mygale spider of South America spins a web so strong that small birds are caught in it, and the spider then feeds upon them.

### USELESS

**B**IRDS without song,  
Skies without sun,  
Shelves without books,  
Life without fun,  
Hands without work,  
Minds without mirth,  
Hearts without love:  
What are they worth?

### He Liked Shrimps

**T**HERE was a young man of Dund  
Who had shrimps every evening  
for T.  
He said, "They are prime,  
And it's very near time.  
That I caught a few more from  
the C."

### Nature News

**T**HE house martin is arriving for the summer, and the pheasant is laying its olive-brown eggs, while other new arrivals are the corncrake, common sand-piper and whinchat. The rare raven, which uses the same nesting-place year after year, is now bringing up its family. The common trout, the most familiar river fish, is plentiful at this season, and the ash, oak, plane, and white jessamine are in leaf. The hedgehog is making a home for its coming babies among the roots of a tree, in a hole in a rock, or in a bank.

## The Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, April 26, to Tuesday, May 2.

**WEDNESDAY, 5.20** A Nursery Sing Song with Doris, Mabel, and Nan; followed by News from the Chester Zoo, by G. S. Mottershead. 5.50 Talk by Laurens Sargent.

**THURSDAY, 5.20** A story for the youngest listeners, Macintosh Meets a Giant, by Lavinia Derwent, read by Moultrie R. Kelsall; followed by a concert of Scottish airs and dance tunes by the Strings of the BBC Scottish Orchestra, conductor, Ian Whyte; and songs by Alex Lyon, boy soprano.

**FRIDAY, 5.20** Part 3 of Anne of Green Gables, a serial play by Muriel Levy, based on the book by L. Montgomery, produced by May Jenkin.

## The BRAN TUB

### NOT SO FAST

"**T**HE witness says your car was going as quick as thought," said the magistrate.

"Yes, sir," replied the motorist. "I know the witness; he is a very slow thinker."

### Very Harrowing

**A** PERKY young sparrow of Harrow  
Complained that his nest was too narrow;  
When he tried to get out  
He fell into the spout—  
That perky young sparrow of Harrow.

### GOLDEN MOTTOES

**A** VAIN man's motto—Win gold and wear it.  
**A** generous man's motto—Win gold and share it.  
**A** miser's motto—Win gold and spare it.  
**A** prodigal's motto—Win gold and spend it.  
**A** moneylender's motto—Win gold and lend it.  
**A** fool's motto—Win gold and end it.  
**A** gambler's motto—Win gold and lose it.  
**A** sailor's motto—Win gold and cruise it.  
**A** wise man's motto—Win gold and use it.

### Other Worlds

**I**N the evening Mars and Saturn are in the west, and Jupiter is in the south-west. In the morning Venus is very low in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, April 27.

### A Hammer Hint

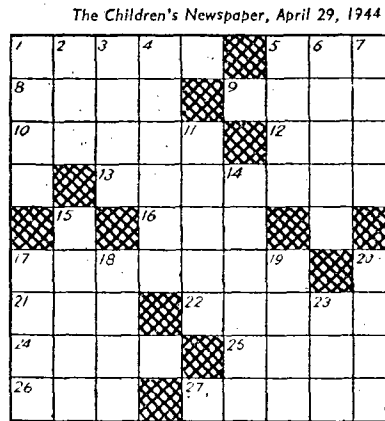
**H**ERE is a simple way to prevent the head of a hammer becoming loose with use. Take a screw and file it to a point. Then screw this into the wood at the top of the head, driving it about half-way in. The insertion of the screw pushes out the wood all round and thus prevents the head from slipping.

## Cross Word Puzzle

**Reading Across.** 1 Plants. 5 A play on words. 8 To wander. 9 An artifice. 10 One who acts for another. 12 Deep track of a wheel. 13 Makers of hostile incursions. 16 To spoil. 17 A figure. 21 Open, poetically. 22 Nimble. 24 Threefold. 25 Spoken, not written. 26 Sooner than. 27 To decree.

**Reading Down.** 1 A quarrel. 2 A bulky piece of timber. 3 Above. 4 To give a new name to. 5 Genuine. 6 Extortionate moneylending. 7 Snare. 11 A head ornament. 14 St. George's foe. 15 A theatrical "extra." 17 An explanatory comment. 18 Simple. 19 An Italian silver coin. 20 A raw hide. 23 Resinous substance used in making varnish.

Answer next week



### AN ENDLESS TOPIC

**W**HAT is it moulds the life of man?

The weather.  
What makes some black and others tan?

The weather.  
What makes Papuans live in trees.

And Congo natives dress in leaves,  
While others go in furs, and freeze?

The weather.

What makes the cost of living high?

The weather.  
What makes the great Sahara dry?

The weather.  
What is it men in every clime  
Will talk about till end of Time?  
What drove the writer's pen to rhyme?

The weather.

### Saving the Pennies

**W**HAT do you charge for dinner?" asked the careful Scot.

"Three shillings, sir."

"And for lunch?"

"Two shillings."

"Well, this evening I will go without dinner. Give me a lunch."

### FIND THE PASSWORD

**I**N the following verse a password is concealed. Can you find it?

A motive lies in this poor verse:  
To give a clue, quite plain and terse.

If you look at these lines, you may

Discover what you seek today.  
Aha! The sixth in each, my friend.

Will state the password that I send.

Answer next week

